

Message Text

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AMEMBASSY LONDON

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 093307

GENEVA FOR CCD DEL

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS:PARM, UN, CCD

SUBJECT:SPECIAL SESSION PREPCOM V: GUIDANCE ON PROPOSALS
TO ALTER UN MECHANISMS RELATED TO DISARMAMENT

REF: STATE 87812

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I. SUMMARY: THIS CABLE PROVIDES INSTRUCTIONS ON THREE
PROPOSALS TO ALTER UN MECHANISMS RELATED TO DISARMAMENT:
(A) RESERVING UNGA FIRST COMMITTEE FOR DISARMAMENT AC-
TIVITIES ONLY; (B) CREATING DELIBERATIVE OR NEGOTIATING
BODY SUBORDINATE TO UNGA; (C) EXPANDING THE EXISTING
UN CENTER FOR DISARMAMENT. END SUMMARY

2. RESERVING UNGA FIRST COMMITTEE FOR DISARMAMENT ACTIVITIES ONLY. THIS PROPOSAL IS DESIGNED TO GIVE INCREASED EMPHASIS TO DISARMAMENT ISSUES, BY MAKING THE FIRST COMMITTEE A DISARMAMENT FORUM ON A FULL-TIME BASIS. GOVERNMENTS WOULD TEND TO SELECT PERSONNEL FOR THEIR FIRST COMMITTEE DELEGATIONS WITH PARTICULAR EMPHASIS ON EXPOSURE TO AND KNOWLEDGE OF ARMS CONTROL ISSUES, AND THIS WOULD ENHANCE THE CALIBER OF THE COMMITTEE'S WORK. FURTHER, THE FIRST COMMITTEE WILL BE ABLE TO DEVOTE ADDITIONAL TIME AND RESOURCES TO THE SUPERVISION AND REVIEW OF STUDIES (E.G, NORDIC STUDY ON THE RELATIONSHIP OF DISARMAMENT

TO DEVELOPMENT) WHICH ARE COMMISSIONED BY THE UNGA, EITHER AT THE SPECIAL SESSION OR THEREAFTER.

OTHER TOPICS PREVIOUSLY DEALT WITH IN THE FIRST COMMITTEE COULD PRESUMABLY BE SHIFTED TO THE SPECIAL POLITICAL COMMITTEE.

DEL MAY SUPPORT ABOVE PROPOSAL, SINCE IT WOULD SERVE US INTERESTS BY ENHANCING THE QUALITY OF THE FIRST COMMITTEE DISARMAMENT DEBATE.

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3. CREATING DELIBERATIVE OR NEGOTIATING BODY SUBORDINATE TO UNGA. THIS PROPOSAL STEMS FROM THE NONALIGNED COUNTRIES. ITS STRONGEST ADVOCATES SEEM TO BE THE INDIANS, WHO HAVE TOLD US THAT THEIR VIEWS ARE PARTLY MOTIVATED BY A NEED TO APPEASE INDIAN PUBLIC OPINION ABOUT CHINA, AND THAT THE NEW BODY WOULD BE A WAY OF POSSIBLY INDUCING THE PRC TO PARTICIPATE ACTIVELY IN DISARMAMENT AFFAIRS. HOWEVER, IN HIS FEBRUARY 3 REMARKS AT FOURTH SESSION OF PREPCOM, THE INDIAN REP JUSTIFIED HIS CALL FOR A NEW BODY BY SAYING THAT IT IS NEEDED IN ORDER TO PREPARE A COMPREHENSIVE DISARMAMENT PROGRAM.

ALTHOUGH WE SHARE THE INDIAN OBJECTIVE OF ENCOURAGING CONSTRUCTIVE CHINESE PARTICIPATION IN DISARMAMENT AFFAIRS, WE DO NOT BELIEVE THAT NEW INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS WOULD HAVE ANY SIGNIFICANT IMPACT ON SUCH CHINESE PARTICIPATION AT THIS TIME. (NEVERTHELESS, DEL IS ENCOURAGED TO ASK INDIANS WHETHER THEY HAVE ANY SPECIFIC ASSURANCES FROM THE CHINESE ON THIS POINT.)

WITH RESPECT TO THE PREPARATION OF A COMPREHENSIVE PRO-

GRAM OF DISARMAMENT, BY TWO RESOLUTIONS IN SUCCESSIVE YEARS THE UNGA HAS ENTRUSTED THIS TASK TO THE CCD, A BODY WHICH WE BELIEVE HAS THE EXPERIENCE, EXPERTISE, AND CONTINUITY NEEDED TO CARRY OUT SUCH A TASK EFFECTIVELY. (FYI, WE BELIEVE THE USG WILL BE ABLE TO EXERCISE MORE LEVERAGE OVER THE SHAPE AND OUTCOME OF THE COMPREHENSIVE PROGRAM IF CCD RETAINS THE TASK OF PREPARING IT. THIS IS BECAUSE CCD OPERATES STRICTLY BY CONSENSUS, WHEREAS THE NEW BODY, SUBORDINATE TO THE UNGA, WOULD TEND TO RESORT TO VOTING WHEN ACHIEVING CONSENSUS BECAME DIFFICULT OR IMPOSSIBLE. EVEN THE IMPLICIT THREAT ASIDE FROM INDIANS, WE SUSPECT THAT SUPPORT FOR A NEW BODY AMONG THE NONALIGNED COUNTRIES IS RATHER THIN. FURTHER, THE PROPOSAL WOULD SEEM TO HAVE LITTLE ATTRACTION

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FOR THE SOVIETS AND THEIR ALLIES. ACCORDINGLY, WE BELIEVE THAT THE PROPOSAL WILL NOT GENERATE SUFFICIENT SUPPORT TO REACH FRUITION.

UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES DEL MAY STATE THAT WE HAVE NOT BEEN CONVINCED OF THE NEED FOR A NEW BODY, BUT THAT IF A CONVINCING NEED CAN BE SHOWN WE WOULD BE WILLING TO CONSIDER IT. IF, CONTRARY TO OUR EXPECTATIONS, SIGNIFICANT SUPPORT FOR A NEW BODY SUBORDINATE TO THE UNGA DOES DEVELOP, DEL MAY STATE THAT WE WOULD BE RECEPTIVE TO THE CREATION OF A BODY TASKED WITH PREPARING THE WAY FOR AND ORGANIZING THE NEXT SPECIAL SESSION ON DISARMAMENT.

4. EXPANDING THE EXISTING UN CENTER FOR DISARMAMENT (UNCD). THIS PROPOSAL SEEMS TO HAVE TWO PURPOSES: (A) PROVIDING ADDITIONAL RESOURCES FOR THE PURPOSE OF ANALYTICAL STUDIES, RESEARCH, AND SO ON; (B) ESTABLISHING A UN OFFICE FOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE IN RELATION TO VERIFICATION OF COMPLIANCE WITH ARMS CONTROL AGREEMENTS.

WE ARE NOT OPPOSED TO EXPANSION FOR THE FIRST PURPOSE, ALTHOUGH WE WOULD WANT TO EXAMINE THE EXACT PROPOSAL IN TERMS OF PERSONNEL AND EXPENSES BEFORE DEFINITELY COMMITTING OURSELVES TO SUPPORT IT. FURTHER, WE WOULD WANT TO ENSURE THAT THE RESULTS OF THE ANALYTICAL STUDIES ARE NOT SUBJECT TO UNDUE INFLUENCE OR PRESSURE.

ON THE OTHER HAND, WE ARE OPPOSED TO CREATING A VERIFICATION-RELATED SUBUNIT WITHIN THE UNCD.

IF PROPOSAL FOR A UN OFFICE RELATED TO VERIFICATION IS ACTIVELY PURSUED, DEL SHOULD STATE THAT WE SEE NO NEED

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FOR SUCH A SUBUNIT. FURTHER, DEL MAY STATE THAT SINCE
ARMS CONTROL AGREEMENTS ARE UNDERTAKEN BY SOVEREIGN
STATES, IT IS FOR THE STATES PARTIES TO ARRANGE FOR MEANS
FOR JUDGING COMPLIANCE; AND THAT, ACCORDINGLY, THE USG IS
OPPOSED TO THE CREATION OF A VERIFICATION SUBUNIT UNDER
UN AEGIS. VANCE

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